

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-20, 22, 27-33, 35, 44, and 46-47, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method-, comprising:

~~supporting emergency calls in a mobile communications network, said mobile communication network comprising a network element;~~

~~receiving an emergency call~~ network access from a user equipment;

~~receiving, at the network element, network access information relating to said the user equipment, said the~~ network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;

~~selectively controlling access to the network in dependence on said network access information; and~~

~~identifying that the request is for an emergency call; and~~

~~disabling the selectively selective controlling access to the network in dependence on the network access information for an emergency call~~ network access responsive to the identifying.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said-the~~ receiving includes receiving the network access information that comprises network area access information.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further including:
determining whether ~~said-the~~ network access comprises an emergency call.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the determining whether ~~said-the~~ network access is for an emergency call includes receiving an indication of the type of call.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising:
receiving the indication of the type of network access from the user equipment or from the network.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said selectively controlling the selective access~~ includes selectively controlling the network which comprises an access network and a core network.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the ~~controlling selective access and the disabling the access to the network~~ are performed in the access network.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
determining whether ~~said-the~~ network access is an emergency call in dependence on receipt of an indication of the type of network access from the core network.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:
activating the ~~disabling the selectively controlling access to the network~~, wherein ~~said-the~~ activating comprises activating on receipt of the indication of the type of network access being the emergency call.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting a network access initiation; wherein the disabling is and,
responsive thereto, disabling the selectively controlling access to the network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein ~~said-the~~ disabling includes disabling for a predetermined time period.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
detecting establishment of a radio access bearer; and
~~activating the disabling-the selectively controlling access to the network for an emergency call network access.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
~~activating the disabling-the selectively controlling access to the network only for the emergency call network access associated with that radio access bearer.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
terminating ~~said~~the disabling responsive to a control signal.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the receiving
further comprising:
receiving the network access information from the core network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting termination of an emergency call; and,

~~responsive thereto, enabling the selectively controlling access to the network terminating the disabling.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
performing the method in a third generation partnership project mobile communication system.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium including computer program code, the computer program code configured to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving an emergency call network access from a user equipment;
receiving, ~~at a network element of a network~~, network access information relating to said user equipment, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;

identifying the request is for an emergency call; and
selectively controlling access to the network in dependence on said network access information; and

disabling the selectively controlling selective access to the network in dependence on the network access information for an emergency call network access responsive to the identifying.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for supporting emergency calls in a mobile communications network, the computer program product configured when executed on a computer to perform:

~~receiving an emergency call~~ network access from a user equipment, ~~said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;~~

~~receiving network access information relating to said the user equipment, the network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;~~

identifying the request is for an emergency call; and

~~selectively controlling access to the network according to said network access information; and~~

~~disabling the selectively controlling selective access to the network for an emergency call network accessin dependence on the network access information responsive to the identifying.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A network element, comprising:

a network access request receiving unit configured to receive a network access request from a user equipment in a network;

a network access information receiving unit configured to receive network access information relating to said-the user equipment, said-the network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;

a selection-an access control unit configured to selectively control network access for the user equipment in dependence on said-the network access information; and

a disabling unit configured to disable the selection-access control unit for an emergency call network access.

21. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein the network access information is shared network area access information.

22. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 20, wherein the network element is configured to determine whether said-the network access is an emergency call.

23. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 22, wherein the network element is configured to receive an indication of a type of network access call.

24. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 23, wherein the indication of the type of network access is configured to be received from the user equipment or from the network.

25. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein the network comprises an access network and a core network.

26. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 25, wherein the access network comprises the network element.

27. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 24, wherein the network element is configured to determine whether said-the network access is the emergency call in dependence on receipt of the indication of the type of network access from the core network.

28. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 24, wherein said-the network element is configured to activate the disabling of the selective control unit responsive to receipt of the indication of the type of network access being the emergency call.

29. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 20, wherein
~~said the~~ network element is configured to detect a network access initiation, and ~~enable~~
~~control the disabling unit~~~~the selective control of access to the network~~ responsive to said
~~the detecting.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 29, further
including a timer, wherein the ~~network element disabling unit~~ is ~~configured to disable the~~
~~selective control of access to the network activated~~ for a predetermined time period
determined by ~~said the~~ timer.

31. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 28, wherein
~~said the~~ network element is configured to detect establishment of a radio access bearer,
and activate the ~~disabling of the selective control unit being controlled~~ in response
thereto.

32. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 25, wherein
the network element is configured to receive the network access information is
configured to be received from the core network.

33. (Currently Amended) The network element according to claim 20, wherein
~~said the~~ network element is configured to detect termination of an emergency call, and

enable the disabling unit is configured to terminate selective control of network access in response thereto.

34. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 26, wherein the network element is a radio network controller of a radio access network.

35. (Currently Amended) A communication system, the system comprising:
an access network;
a core network; and
at least one user equipment configured to connect to the core network through the access network,

wherein the access network is configured to:
receive a request for an emergency call network access from the user equipment,
receive network access information relating to the user from the core network, said the network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access,
~~selectively control access to the core network for the user equipment in dependence on said network access information,~~
identify a the request is for an emergency call, and

disable the selective controlling of access to the network in dependence on the network access information responsive to identification of the emergency call.

36. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network is configured to identify termination of the emergency call, and enable the selective controlling of access to the network responsive to termination of the emergency call.

37. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network comprises an input for receiving an emergency call indicator from the user equipment for identifying a request for the emergency call.

38. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network comprises an input for receiving an emergency call indicator from the core network for identifying a request for the emergency call.

39. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 38, wherein the access network is configured to disable the selective control of access to the network on initiation of a call.

40. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 39,
wherein the access network is configured so that the disabling of the selective
control of access to the network on initiation of the call is activated for a predetermined
time period.

41. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 39,
wherein the access network is configured to detect establishment of a radio access
bearer, wherein the disabling of the selective control of access to the network on
initiation of the call is activated until establishment of the radio access bearer.

42. (Previously Presented) The communications system according to claim 35,
wherein the access network is configured to
detect termination of the emergency call; and
enable the selective control of access to the core network in response
thereto.

43. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35,
wherein the access network is configured to receive an indication of the
emergency call on relocation of the call to the access network.

44. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 35,
wherein the access network is configured to send an indication of the emergency
call on relocation of the call to another access network.

45. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 35, further
comprising a third generation partnership project mobile communication system.

46. (Currently Amended) A network element, comprising:
network access request receiving means for receiving a network access request
from a user equipment in a network;
network access information receiving means for receiving network access
information relating to said—the user equipment, said—the network access information
indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;
selection means for selectively controlling network access for the user equipment
in dependence on said—the network access information; and
disabling means for disabling the selection means for an emergency call network
access.

47. (Currently Amended) A communication system, the system comprising:
an access network;

a core network; and
at least one user equipment for connection to the core network through the access network,
wherein the access network comprises
means for receiving a request for a network access from the user equipment,
means for receiving network access information relating to the user from the core network, ~~said~~ the network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access,
means for selectively controlling access to the core network for the user equipment in dependence on ~~said~~ the network access information,
means for identifying a request for an emergency call, and
means for disabling the means for selectively controlling access to the network responsive to identification of the emergency call.